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In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

Appomattox, Virginia

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TAX MERRY-GO-ROUND

Now from Washington comes word, from members of the House Appropriations committee and others, that taxes cannot possibly be reduced this year. Just a few weeks ago, talk about tax cuts was widespread and even House Speaker Sam Rayburn predicted that a tax cut bill might be passed this year.

In recent days several congressmen have pointed out that the cuts in the budget supposedly made by the House Appropriations committee, which are supposed to amount to over two billion dollars, will actually affect spending very little. In other words, these spokesmen say that most of the publicity about budget reduction is much-ado-about-nothing, and that the budget has not been greatly reduced.

Also, as a development which changes the tax picture, the estimate of tax collections has been altered in recent days by official forecasts. Whereas the President expected to have a surplus in the coming fiscal year of $1,800,000,000, based on rising tax collections, official estimates may have to be lowered and some believe that the $1,800,000,000 surplus estimate was at least five hundred million dollars too high.

The point we wish to make in this editorial is that the American people are in a mood for tax and budget cuts. The budget will be cut to some extent, we believe, although we do not know how much. We will also have a surplus in the current fiscal year, though we do not know how large the surplus will be. Next year, we will also have a surplus, even if Congress has to cut the budget again, but in any event we will have a surplus because the Administration is predicting a surplus even on the basis of being given its proposed budget funds.

So, with a surplus in view this year and next year, even though it may be smaller than anticipated earlier, a tax cut is all-important and is a necessity for some Congressmen if they would like to remain in office. Even if the tax cut is smaller than some had hoped, the high wartime rates which are now in effect and have not been reduced much since Korea, are morally wrong and must be lowered.

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INFORMATION WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING

We think there is much truth in the statement by an eminent educator, who declared: "Our university graduates have far more information and far less understanding than in our colonial period."

There can be little doubt of the fact that the process of specialization in intelectual pursuits has developed considerably more detailed information on a greater number of subjects and that specific individuals, in their chosen fields of study, have far more information than was available to the students of preceding generations.

We are rather inclined to agree with the thought that the very process of specialization prevents an individual from developing balanced information, which is necessary to any comprehensive understanding of human beings, their environment and aspirations.

Inasmuch as human beings must cooperate in a world which includes other human beings, it is vitally necessary, in approaching the problems of mankind, that individuals have a thorough understanding of other human beings. This develops tolerance, understanding and good will, which, it so happens, is what the world needs so greatly today.

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MEDICAL BREAK-THROUGH

A scientist believes she has isolated a micro-organism which is probably the cause of multiple sclerosis. This development, if it proves to be as described, is of major medical significance.

The scientists, Miss Rose Ichelson, believes she has developed a skin test which will tell whether a patient is afflicted with multiple sclerosis. She thinks that her findings must now be checked to be substantiated, though she predicts they will be, and that scientists should begin to seek a way to perfect an immunizing serum against the disease and a way to cure it.

It is estimated that about 300,000 Americans are afflicted with multiple sclerosis. There has been no known cure for it and slight relief for certain forms of the disease. Therefore, if Miss Ichelson's work results in a serum, or some other immunization, she will have achieved the goal of a lifetime and will have made a major contribution to the progress of mankind.

* * * * * * * *

HAULING MIGRANT LABORERS

For many years special safety provisions have been taken concerning passenger travel by bus, and affecting most conveyances which carry passengers on the highway. In one field where legislation might have been overlooked is that concerning the hauling of migrant laborers.

In North Carolina, in one of the nation's worst truck accidents in history, eighteen persons were killed and another eighteen were injured when a truck, carrying forty-one migrant Negroes, collided head-on with a big tractor-trailer.

We are not inferring or pointing blame toward anyone in the recent North Carolina accident. However, when migrant workers are at the mercy of a driver in such numbers, their lives are in the hands of the driver of their conveyance and a tragedy such as that recently underscores the need for concern about their safety.

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No one knows whether there will be a deflation in the years to come, but you won't be sorry if you pay your debts now.

Life would be more enjoyable if more people tried to enjoy it.

* * * * * * * * *

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Background Scripture: Genesis 39—41.
Devotional Reading: Psalm 105:16.

God Remembers

Lesson for June 23, 1957

DO God become God of love recently, or was he always so? This point has bothered some readers of the Bible, for in the New Testament it is made plain that God is love, but in the Old Testament very little is said about this. Or so it used to be thought. Now that we have the Revised Standard Version, we can see that the Old Testament likewise speaks of God's "steadfast love," an expression translating a Hebrew word which used to be translated "mercy" or "grace." God's steadfast love is the root and reason of his mercy and his grace.

Dr. Foreman

Happy Endings?

If God were all-powerful he could keep evil from happening, and if he were all-loving he would not let it happen. But evil happens, so there cannot be a god." So runs an old objection to religion. But it never bothered the writers of the Bible. Their faith was of a stouter sort. Some people cannot believe in God unless he writes, so to speak, a happy ending for every one's story. Now the Hebrew people loved stories with happy endings, and perhaps Joseph's is such a story. In one way it has a happy ending.—Joseph the slave-boy becomes the Grand Vizier of Egypt. Joseph, the boy, his brothers were going to murder, becomes their unknown benefactor. And yet—in its setting it is not quite happy. The same book of Genesis which begins with "In the beginning, God—" ends with the stark expression, "In a coffin in Egypt." Not very hopeful! Further, when you think of all the other stories tied in with that of Joseph, you will admit that not all the threads of this story are neatly tied off in book-ends of happy endings. What became of Potiphar's wife? the Midianite slave-traders? the baker who made a dinner for the birds? the free Egyptian people who became slaves of the king? Not all true-life stories end just as we might wish.

Sin and Freedom

It can be said that the stories of good people come out well and the stories of bad people come out badly. There is some truth in that. There is this much truth at any rate: God has never yet abolished sin, and he permits sin's effects to continue to be terrible. The only way to abolish sin outright would be to destroy freedom; for sin is simply man's misuse of the freedom God has given him. God could, no doubt, have made the human race so that they could be wound up like clocks to run right no matter what. But he made men, not machines. And the tragic fact of sin is a fact. Thus every man's story is spoiled more or less. Indeed there are no perfect stories. God is God of love; but he is not the kind of God who would force all men to do right, regardless; nor is he the kind of God who will see to it that no matter what a man does, he is bound to be happy ever after. It is not only that men are affected by the results of their own sins. Worse than this are the injustices, the tragedies, caused for the innocent by the sins of others.

But God Remembers

Nevertheless, God does not forget. He is not careless nor powerless. Among the many truths which the story of Joseph suggests is the doctrine called Providence. Put into simple words, this means that God thinks of things beforehand. In ways we do not understand, for it is his doing and not ours, God works, both in spite of and because of the worst that sinful men can do, works to bring good out of evil. Joseph's brothers and Potiphar's wife were sinners; yet God used their sins, in his providence, to bring good into the lives of countless people. Two questions not cleared up in the Old Testament have more light cast on them by the New. Will evil and good go on side by side forever? The story of Joseph does not look so far ahead. The New Testament shows clearly, No; God will one day make a final separation of good from evil. And then what about those good persons whose lives end in tragedy? The New Testament reminds us that we never see the real end of any one's story in this world; coffins—in Egypt or elsewhere — end chapters, but no coffin ends a Last Chapter!

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Pamplin

Pamplin, June 17.- Rev. J. S. Moore, of Lexington visited in the home of the Rev. and Mrs. W. M. Black last week.

Mrs. R. L. Woodson, of Richmond, attended the Methodist Conference at Roanoke last week. She was accompanied by her niece, Miss Mary Royes Black.

Mrs. Dorothy Canada and sons, Johnny and Randy, visited relatives at Ashland Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wood, of Winchester are spending their summer vacation with her mother, Mrs. H. F. Clark, and are attending school at Longwood.

Miss Kate Franklin spent last week-end with her brother and sister-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Franklin, of Richmond.

Mrs. H. T. Terry was called to Wilson, N. C. last week, due to the death of her brother, Mr. Harry W. Abbitt.

Mrs. L. L. Dickerson visited relatives at Portsmouth last week.

Mr. E. J. Smith, Jr., and Mr. Earl Wood visited at Franklin last Thursday.

Mrs. W. S. Bantam, of Lynchburg is visiting her sisters, Mrs. R. W. Richardson and Mrs. L. L. Dickerson.

Mrs Stuart Farrar is spending this week at Virginia Beach.

Mrs. N. L. McClenny, Mrs. E. N. Harvey and son, Wilson, are visiting relatives at Locust Hill and Portsmouth.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Farrar and daughter, Mis Norma Kathryn, of Pearisburg were week-end guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Farrar.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. D Canada and Mrs. Dorothy Canada attended a Canada family reunion at Halifax Sunday.

Donna Gilman, of Ashland spent last week in the h Dorothy Canada.

The Presbyterian Baptism Church Daily Vacation B week, at Elon Sa

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Editor's Note: Here are the questions asked most frequently by farm farmers during the past week, as reported by county agricultural agents. Answers are supplied by staff members of the VPI Agricultural Extension Service and/or Experiment Station).

Q. Should yearlings and calves to be fed as yearling and feeder sales and be given grain while on pasture?

A. Not unless pastures are poor. Q. Should I store my wheat on government loan or sell at harvest time?

A. This will be an individual decision depending on the market price at harvest time, the quality of the wheat, the discount likely under the harvest loan, and the storage cost. Last year about 17% of the wheat crop was put on loan, but farmers redeemed most of it before maturity, indicating that they felt it better on the market. No guidelines are available as yet on this year's Richmond market. The support price this year is $2.18 - $2.20.

Q. What is a good mixture for hay?

A. Many farmers like a mixture consisting of 10 pounds of pearl millet, 10 pounds of Sudan grass, 5 pounds of sorghum, and 1 bushel of cowpeas.

Q. What is small grain so short with heads that are not filled?

A. Leaching out of plant nutrients is the common cause this year. However, if you suspect the presence of disease, send samples for analysis to the VPI Plant Pathology Laboratory, Blacksburg.

Q. What is the best control for armyworm?

A. If infestations are found before the armyworm migrates from the overwintering quarters, lay down around the field to be protected, a band of insecticidal dust or spray. The barriers should be from 5 to 20 feet wide. Use toxaphene, chlordane, or TDE. If the insects are not detected before they have much been reduced.

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Homemakers Items

How much meat does your meat dollar buy?

To answer that, marketing specialists at VPI feel that a homemaker should know about how much edible meat there is in the cuts she buys. Price alone is not enough in deciding whether or not a cut of meat is an economical buy.

Popular cuts of pork are cited by the specialists as good examples of the real cost of lean meat. A ham, for instance, is about 10% bone and 24% fat. At 70c a pound the cost of lean meat runs more than a dollar a pound.

Ham is popular with homemakers for outings and warm - weather meals that can be cooked ahead of serving time. Unlike the bone in many other cuts, a ham bone can be put to good use in seasoning other foods.

Spareribs are pork speciality and are used by many families this time of the year for outdoor barbecuing. They should be shopped for carefully since the percentage of bone runs higher than in any other pork cut. About 40% of a pound of spareribs is bone, making the cost of lean meat considerably more than a dollar when the whole piece is sold at 70c a pound.

In a "picnic" ham, which comes from the pork shoulder, there is about 14% bone and 21% fat. Picnics are usually cured and well liked by many homemakers because they are smaller than regular hams and a better size for a small family.

Another part of the pork shoulder, called the Boston butt, is the best source of edible meat of all pork cuts. It is about 8% bone and around 11% fat, making the cost of lean meat from this cut just slightly higher than the cost of the whole piece.

Loin roasts and chops run about 18% bone and 15% fat, and bacon runs around 49% fat. Although most homemakers look for very lean bacon, a piece with too much lean tends to be stringy. A cut with an even distribution of lean to fat is considered most desirable and flavorful.

VITAL ROLE IN ECONOMY PLAYED BY SAVINGS BONDS

The important role that Savings Bonds play in the current economy of America is stressed by the following statement by Dr. Randolph Burgess, Under Secretary of the Treasury. Dr. Burgess is a former leader in banking circles of New York City, Past President of the American Bankers Association, and a recognized authority in the field of finance. Dr. Burgess' statement follows:

"The United States Savings Bonds program is one of the finest ways of encouraging regular savings. Through the Payroll Savings Plan or other regular purchases, millions of Americans have become savers for the first time. They have found these 'save-as-you-earn plans an ideal way to build up financial reserves for emergencies and for special goals, such as sending children through college, buying a home, or supplementing retirement income.

"This country needs increased savings in all forms to finance soundly our growing economy and provide greater future financial security for our people and nation. Savings Bonds are an important part of this effort.

"Every dollar of Savings Bonds that is sold means a dollar less the Government needs from other sources. Since the Federal Government's budget is now balanced and the public debt is being reduced, the money we get from Savings Bonds means that we are able to pay off just that much more of the debt held by banks and other financial institutions. This releases funds for use in local communities all over the country to help finance new houses, plants and equipment, schools, highways, etc.

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"The job of encouraging the additional savings in all forms that are needed to finance America's future growth and prosperity is a big one and a challenge to all of us. Your Savings Bonds promotion efforts will help meet that challenge."

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TOUCHES WIRE; LIVES

Baltimore, Md.- Joseph J. Ferrarra, apparently climbed atop a motionless freight train and accidently touched a wire carrying 11,000 volts of electricity. The power line burned all the clothes from his body and badly burned the boy, but he is expected to live.

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